

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08527 01 OF 02 201404Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 DHA-02 /086 W  
-----201433Z 102549 /47

R 201220Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5262  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 8527

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA ON ISRAEL SINCE SINAI II

REF: 75 CAIRO 11232

SUMMARY: SINCE SIGNATURE OF SINAI II IN SEPTEMBER  
1975, EGYPTIAN MEDIA HAVE AVOIDED SUSTAINED HOSTILITY  
TOWARDS ISRAEL. COMPARED TO PRE-OCTOBER WAR PERIOD,  
COMMENTARY HAS BEEN REMARKABLE FOR LACK OF SHRILLNESS.  
STRAIGHTFORWARD ANTI-SEMITISM HAS VIRTUALLY DROPPED  
FROM NEWSPAPERS AND WHAT CAME TO BE TRADITIONAL GUTTER  
RHETORIC UNDER NASSER HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR LIBYA AND  
USSR. ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN  
RED FLAG FOR GOE AND MEDIA ALIKE. THUS, LIKUD  
VICTORY, IMPLYING MORE GOI EMPHASIS ON SETTLEMENTS IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08527 01 OF 02 201404Z

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, COULD EVENTUALLY RESULT IN A NEW  
MEDIA STRIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE SINAI II AGREEMENT IN  
SEPTEMBER 1975, THERE HAS BEEN NEITHER A SUSTAINED ANTI-  
ISRAELI TONE IN THE MEDIA NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY NOTABLE  
OUTBREAK OF SPLEEN OVER PARTICULAR INCIDENTS. WE HAVE

NOT SYSTEMATICALLY RESEARCHED THE MEDIA FOR THIS PERIOD, BUT, BASED ON OUR OWN REPORTING AND THE COMMENTS OF BOTH DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, CONSENSUS IS THAT MEDIA HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SUBDUED ON EVERY ISSUE EXCEPT ISRAEL SETTLEMENT POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

2. ANTI-SEMITISM. IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN TWO ANTI-SEMITIC ARTICLES, ONE PARTICULARLY DESPICABLE. OCTOBER MAGAZINE EDITOR ANIS MANSUR, WRITING IN AHRAH AND DISTORTING ARTHUR KOESTLER'S LATEST BOOK AS A HANDLE, ALLEGED ANTI-SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JEWISH NATION AS A WHOLE. A LESS RACIST AND MORE ANTI-ISRAEL ORIENTED ARTICLE WAS BY AN UNKNOWN LAWYER IN AHRAH WHO ARGUED JEWS SHOULD NOT BE WELCOMED BACK INTO EGYPT (AS PLO HAS RECOMMENDED) BECAUSE THEY WOULD INEVITABLY FORM 5TH COLUMN. SCURRILOUSLY ANTI-SEMITIC MINWAR HANDOUT FOR PARTICIPANTS IN LOCAL SYMPOSIUM ON OCTOBER WAR (NOV 1975--SEE 75 CAIRO 11232) WAS EGREGIOUS, BUT WAS NEVER MENTIONED IN MEDIA.

3. SETTLEMENTS. WHENEVER THERE IS ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLAN FOR NEW SETTLEMENT, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EGYPTIAN REACTION IS IMMEDIATE. ESPECIALLY WHEN NEW SETTLEMENTS ARE IN EGYPT (YAMIT AND ITS "PORT", ONLY SOME 50 MILES FROM PORT SAID, REMAINS SORETEST POINT OF ALL), MFA COMPLAINS BITTERLY AND PRESS REFLECTS GOE SUSPICION THAT GOI'S "CREATION OF FACTS" INTENDED AS DELIBERATE PROVOCATION BASED ON "ARROGANT" (FAVORITE ADJECTIVE) CERTAINTY THAT ARABS WILL NEVER GET LAND BACK. SETTLEMENTS ARE PRIME CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 08527 01 OF 02 201404Z

RED FLAG FOR EGYPTIAN PRESS, GOVERNMENT, AND PEOPLE.

4. ANNIVERSARIES. MOST LIKELY OCCASIONS FOR MILITANT ANTI-ISRAELI STATEMENTS AND EDITORIALS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ANNIVERSARIES OF "THE GLORIOUS CROSSING" OF SUEZ IN THE OCTOBER WAR AND THE LIKE. PRESIDENT SADAT LAST OCTOBER BARELY MENTIONED ISRAEL IN A SERIES OF SPEECHES HE MADE IN THE CANAL ZONE AND THE MEDIA FOLLOWED HIS LEAD, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON THE ARAB "PSYCHOLOGICAL CROSSING" AND THE NEED FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

5. MILITARY OCCASIONS. CADET PASSING-OUT CEREMONIES, PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED MANEUVERS AND SIMILAR EVENTS USUALLY FEATURE AN ADDRESS BY A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER, OFTEN MINWAR GAMASY. IT HAS BEEN HIS PRACTICE TO EMPHASIZE THAT ARABS CAN NOT SUCCEED DIPLOMATICALLY IF THEY HESITATE FROM WEAKNESS, AND WAR OPTION MUST ALWAYS BE CREDIBLE. WITH THE ADVENT OF WHAT GOE PERCEIVES AS NATIONAL SECURITY DANGER OF SOVIET MECHANISMS FROM

LIBYA TO THE HORN, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN EFFORT, SPEAR-  
HEADED BY GAMASY, TO DEMONSTRATE TO EGYPTIANS THAT GOE  
IS NOT DISSIPATING ITS ATTENTION AND ITS MATERIEL IN  
AFRICA. HENCE THE MANEUVERS IN THE SINAI, ANNOUNCED  
IN THE MEDIA IN MANNER DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT GOE IS STILL  
PRINCIPALLY CONCENTRATING ON WHAT ARABS PERCEIVE AS THEIR  
PRIME ANTAGONIST.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08527 02 OF 02 201420Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 DHA-02 /086 W  
-----201432Z 102719 /47

R 201220Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5263  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 8527

6. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY  
NO EGYPTIAN MEDIA REPORTING ON SUCH TOPICS AS "RED  
SHIELD OF DAVID" CONTROVERSY. HOWEVER, UNSC ACTIVITIES  
BY EGYPTIAN DELEGATES HAVE BEEN ACCORDED WIDE COVERAGE,  
ALWAYS IN A PEACE PROCESS CONTEXT. ISRAEL IS CRITICIZED  
FOR "DISREGARD" UN CONSENSUS.

7. REJECTING THE "BAIT". IT MIGHT BE INSTRUCTIVE TO  
COMPILE CATALOGUE OF EVENTS IN ISRAEL TO WHICH PRE-  
SINAI I EGYPTIAN PRESS WOULD HAVE REACTED SENSATIONALLY,  
BUT WHICH WERE MERELY REPORTED WITH MINIMUM COMMENT  
DURING LAST 18 MONTHS. IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD GO  
BEATING UP OF PALESTINIAN SCHOOL GIRLS IN RAMALLAH  
(PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE HAD MORE ON THAT STORY THAN DID CAIRO

PRESS). PERES' ANNOUNCED EFFORTS REVERT TO STEP BY STEP  
ALSO HANDLED CALMLY HERE.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08527 02 OF 02 201420Z

8. VOICE OF PALESTINE. THE PLO RADIO STATION IN CAIRO  
WAS CLOSED BY SADAT IN SEPT 1975 AND THEN REOPENED IN  
JUNE 1976 FOR REASONS OF ARAB POLITICS, CONNECTED, OF  
COURSE, WITH EGYPTIAN EFFORTS REGAIN AS MUCH CONFIDENCE,  
AND THUS AS MUCH INFLUENCE, AS POSSIBLE WITH FATAH.  
TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, VOP COMMENTARIES ARE NOT SUBMITTED  
TO GOE FOR PRE-CENSORSHIP, ALTHOUGH STUDIOS ARE IN EGYPTIAN  
MININFO BUILDING. STRIDENCY OF SOME VOP BROADCASTS IS  
UNQUESTIONABLE. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT MONITOR THIS STATION  
ROUTINELY, OUR IMPRESSION, NEVERTHELESS, IS THAT A MAIN  
TARGET OF VOP HAS BEEN ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY, WHICH  
GOE ALSO FINDS HIGHLY SUSPECT.

9. CONCLUSION. IN GENERAL THERE HAS BEEN UNDERCURRENT  
IN PRESS COMMENTARY THAT IT IS ISRAEL WHICH IS OBSTRUCTING  
THE PEACE PROCESS, AN ALLEGATION COUPLED EXPLICITLY AND  
IMPLICITLY WITH NOTION THAT IT IS UP TO USG TO END THIS  
STATE OF AFFAIRS. THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN AN ALMOST  
TOTAL LACK OF THE TRADITIONAL MUD SLINGING OR HATE PROPAGANDA THAT  
WAS NOT UNCOMMON DURING NASSER PERIOD. THIS GUTTER STYLE  
HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR LIBYA AND, FROM TIME TO TIME,  
USSR. IT IS ALSO WORTH POINTING OUT THAT, CONTRARY TO  
VIEW EXPRESSED BY SOME ISRAELI OFFICIALS THAT SADAT SPEAKS  
WITH "FORKED TONGUE" DEPENDING UPON WHETHER AUDIENCE IS  
FOREIGN OR EGYPTIAN, EGYPTIAN ARABIC LANGUAGE MEDIA  
ALMOST ALWAYS CARRY FULL TEXT OF SADAT'S INTERVIEWS IN  
FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS. IT IS, IN FACT, THIS OPENNESS WHICH  
MOST DISTINGUISHES SADAT'S STYLE FROM NASSER'S (AND MANY  
OTHER ARAB LEADERS'), AND WINS PLAUDITS EVEN FROM HIS  
EGYPTIAN CRITICS.

10. PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT ONE READS AND HEARS ARE OBVIOUSLY  
CONDITIONED BY MIND SETS OF THE READOR OR AUDITOR. IT  
IS EASY TO APPRECIATE THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT NOT BE MUCH  
CHEERED BY CAIRO MEDIA SINCE SINAI II, BUT TO LONG TERM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 08527 02 OF 02 201420Z

OBSERVERS OF THE EGYPTIAN SCENE, THE LACK OF SHRILLNESS  
AND AVOIDANCE SUSTAINED PUBLIC HOSTILITY HAVE BEEN STRIKING.  
THE EXCEPTION IS A CONSTANT THEME THAT "ISRAEL FEARS  
PEACE" AND THE CONCOMITANT CONVICTION THAT ISRAELI

SETTLEMENT POLICY PROVES IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENT TO  
EXPANSIONISM.

11. LIKUD VICTORY. WE SHALL WATCH WITH INTEREST IN THE  
COMING WEEKS TO SEE IF THIS GENERAL MEDIA QUIESCENCE  
HOLDS, WITH BEGIN AS APPARENT NEXT PRIMIN. THERE ARE  
TWO FACTORS WHICH MIGHT MAKE FOR MORE STRIDENCY; I.E.,  
ASSOCIATION EGYPTIANS SEEM ROUTINELY TO MAKE BETWEEN  
BEGIN'S NAME AND DEIR YASIN MASSACRE AND OTHER TERRORIST  
ACTS, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT BEGIN WILL BE NEITHER DISCREET  
NOR FLEXIBLE ON SETTLEMENTS. WE NOTE HIS OBSERVATION  
DAY AFTER ELECTION THAT WEST BANK AND GAZA ARE INTEGRAL  
PARTS OF ISRAEL AND HIS SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT ENCOURAGING  
MORE SETTLEMENTS. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE CAN EXPECT SHRILL  
OFFICIAL AND MEDIA REACTION TO SUCH STATEMENTS AND IF THEY  
ARE CONSTANT, IT IS CONCEIVABLE SHRILLNESS MIGHT EVENTUALLY  
BECOME THE RULE, RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION.  
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO08527  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770180-0504  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770537/aaaabfpe.tel  
**Line Count:** 242  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** be35408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CAIRO 11232  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2442602  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EGYPTIAN MEDIA ON ISRAEL SINCE SINAI II  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/be35408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009